

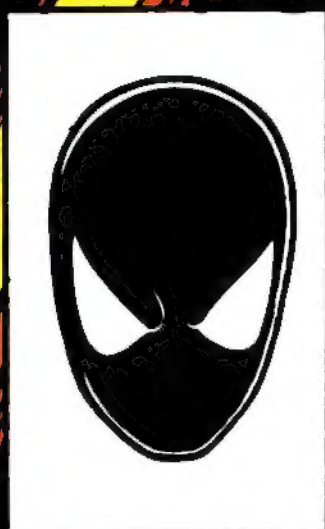
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X FACTOR



STAN LEE PRESENTS

PLAYING WITH FIRE!

THE MUTANT NAMED
THE ANGEL IS DEAD!
FOR OTHERS IN
THE TRAINING
ROOM AT
X-FACTOR
HQ, LIFE
GOES ON!

SURPRISE,
FLAME DEMON,
YOUR TIME IS
UP!

LOUISE
SIMONSON
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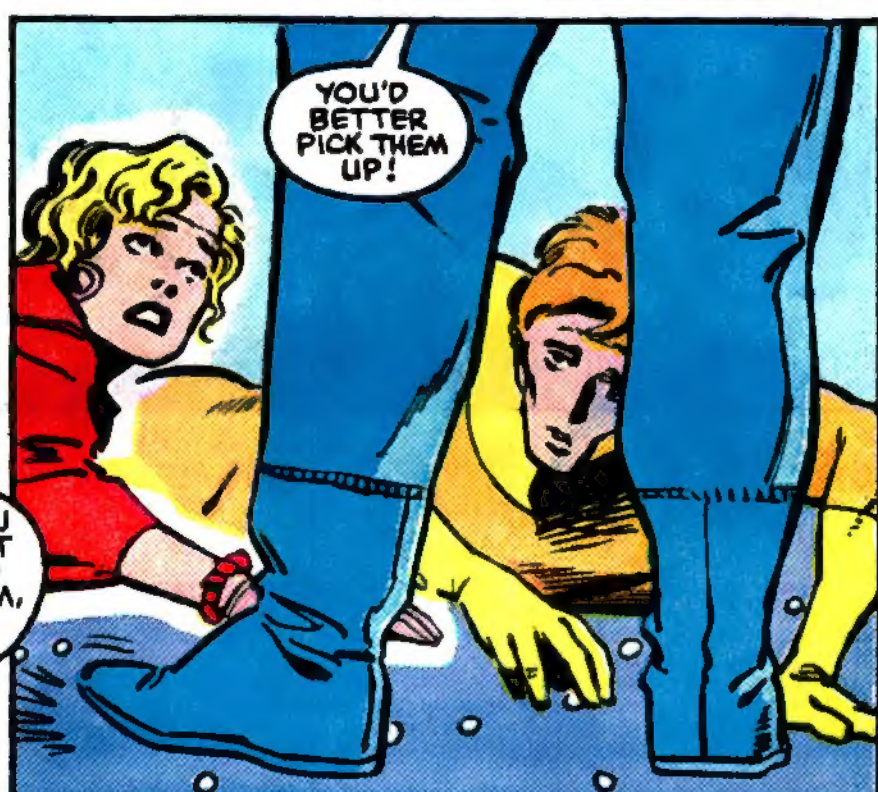
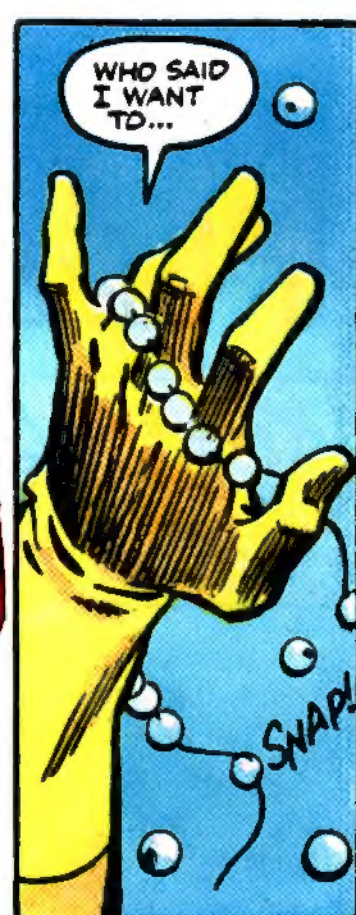
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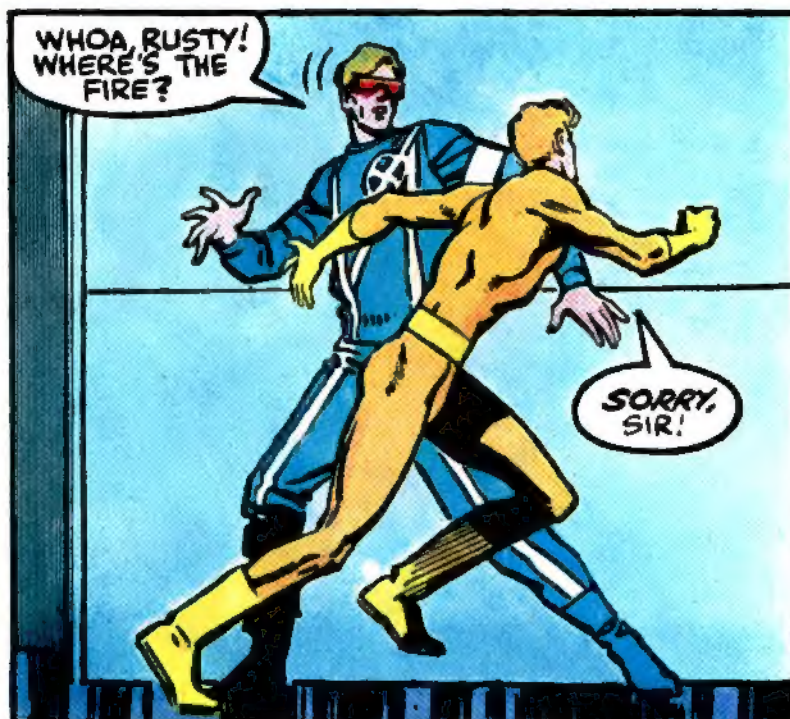
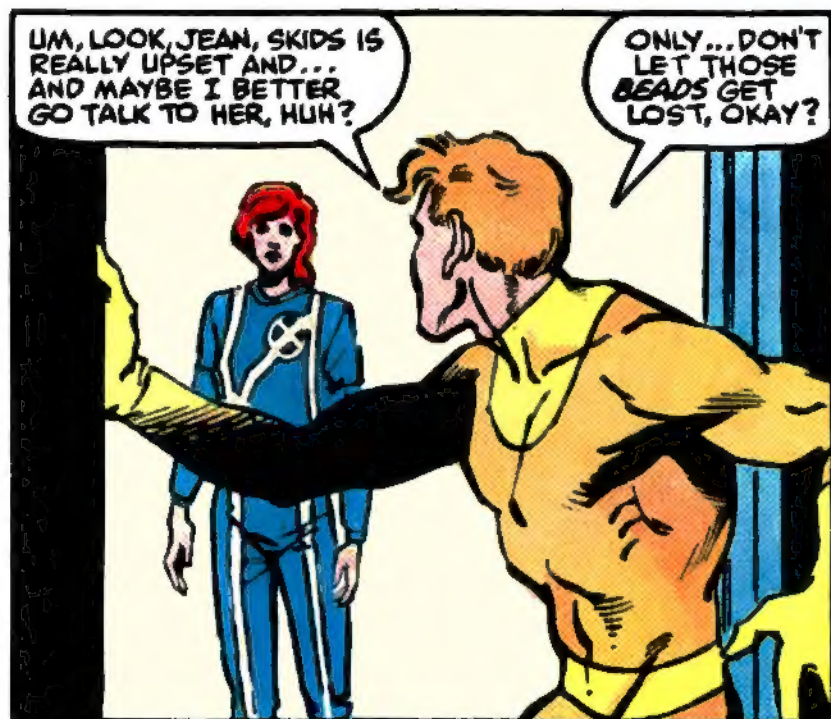
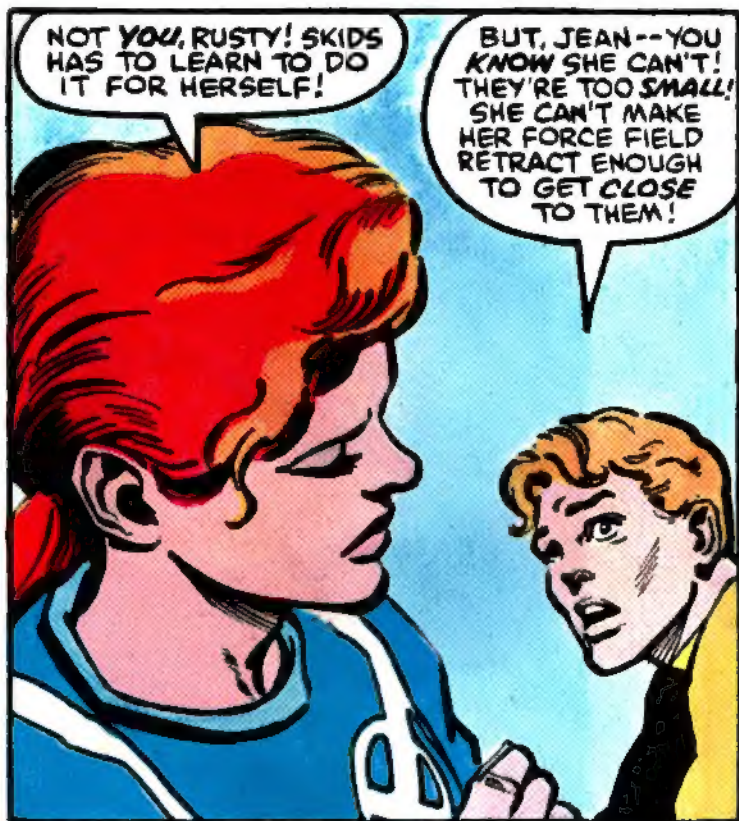
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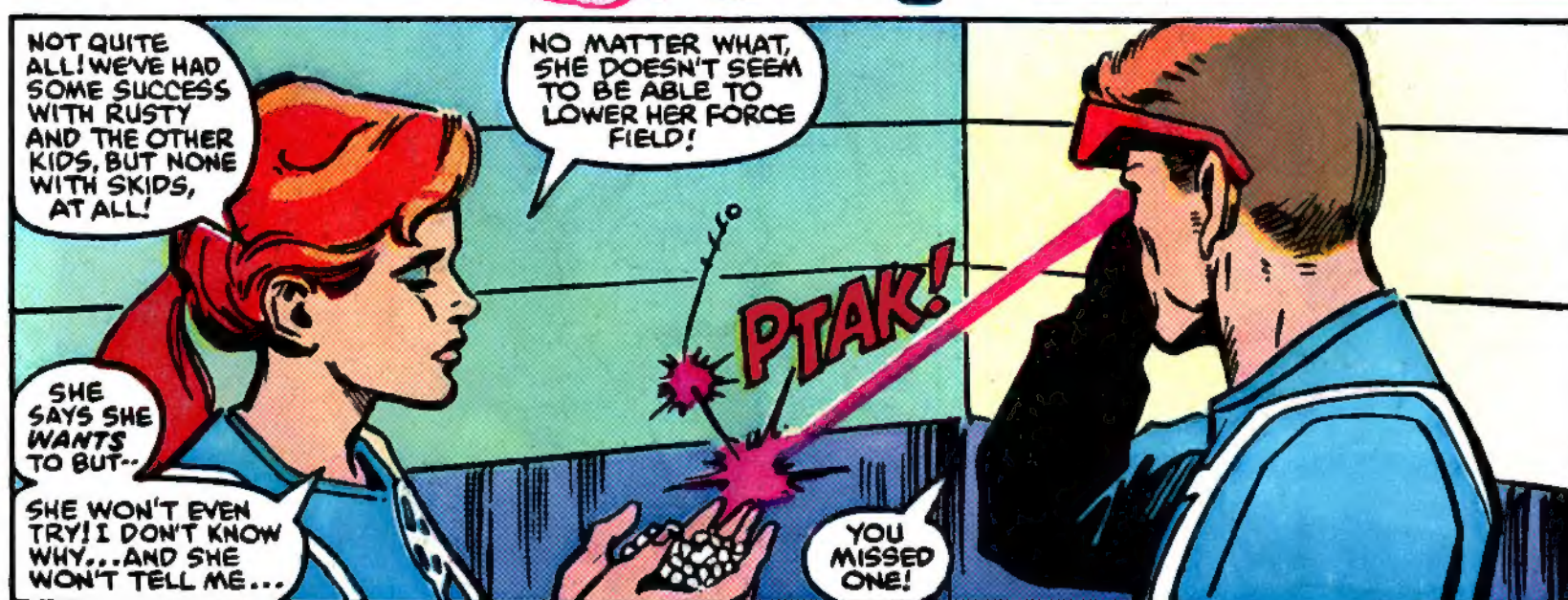
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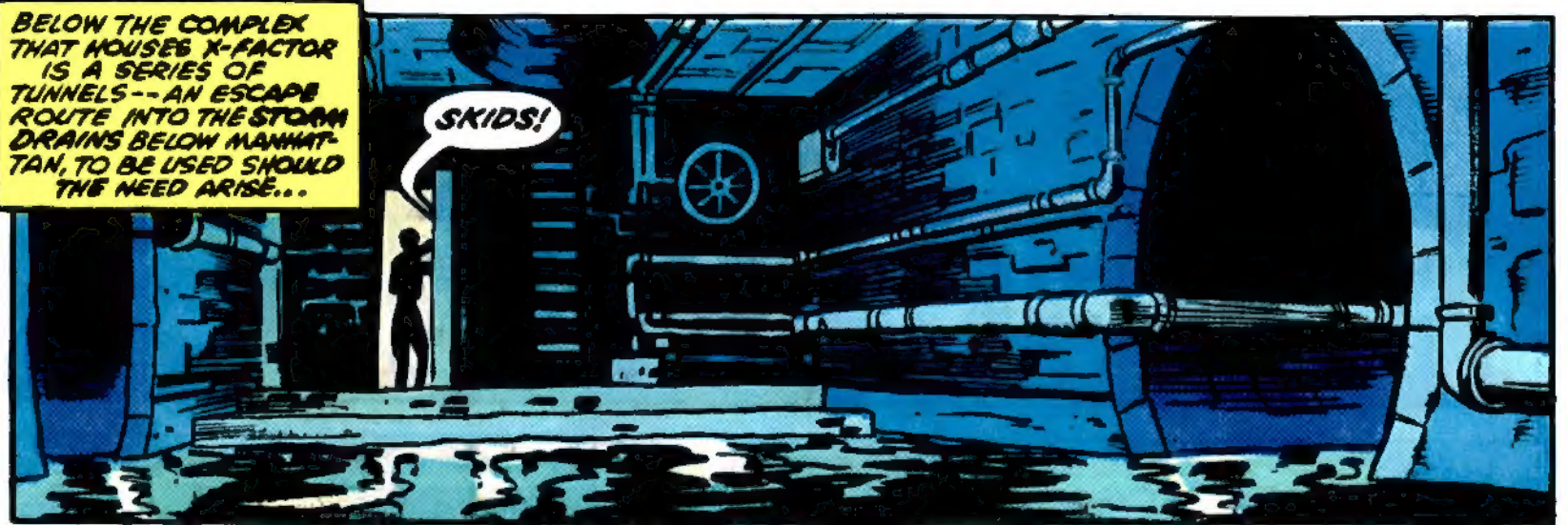
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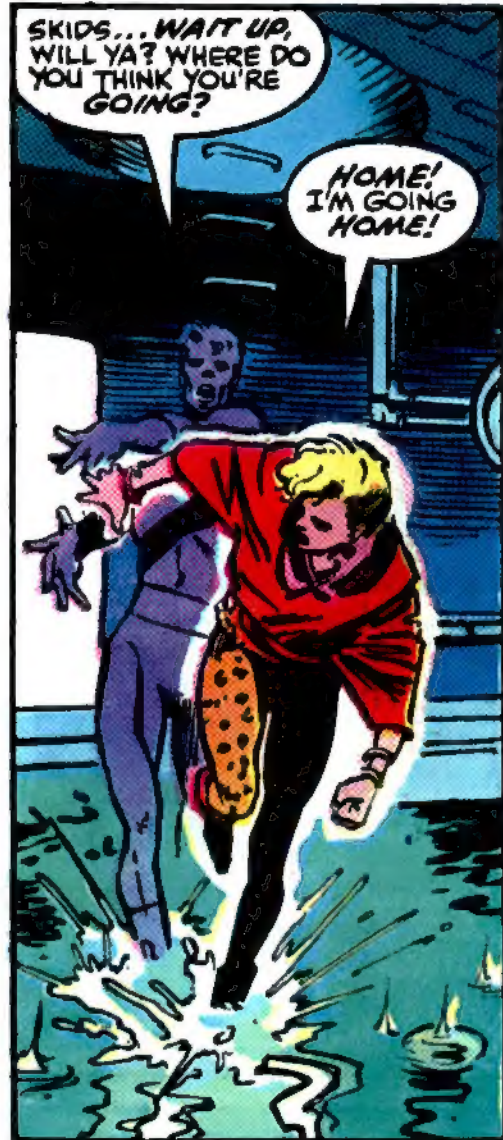
BELOW THE COMPLEX THAT HOUSES X-FACTOR IS A SERIES OF TUNNELS--AN ESCAPE ROUTE INTO THE STORM DRAINS BELOW MANHATTAN, TO BE USED SHOULD THE NEED ARISE...



SKIDS!

SKIDS... WAIT UP, WILL YA? WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

HOME! I'M GOING HOME!



I WAS A MORLOCK--ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND MUTANTS REJECTS--ONE OF THE SEWER DWELLERS--BEFORE X-FACTOR FOUND ME!



WELL... NOW I'M GOING BACK TO THE SEWERS!

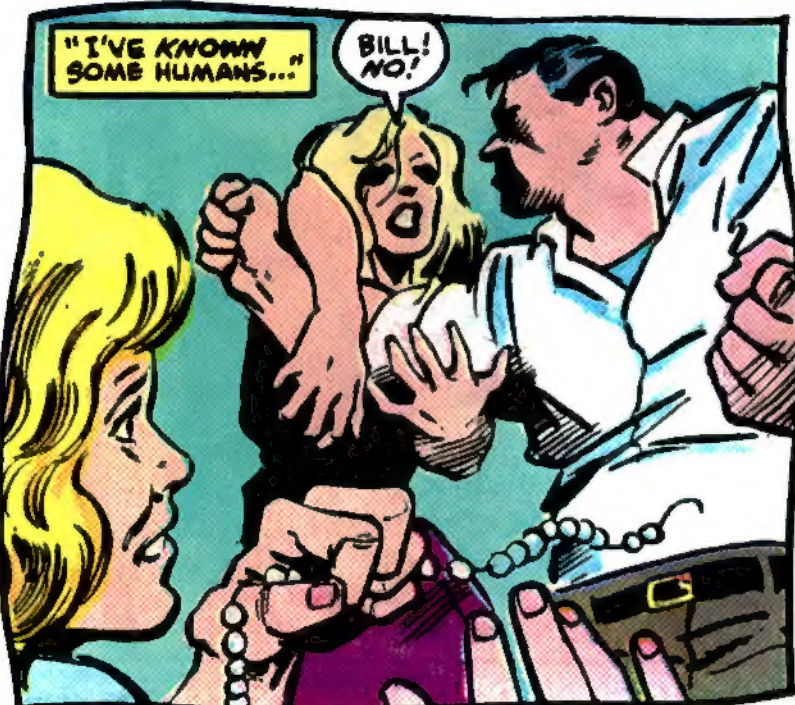
THEY WANT ME TO LEARN TO LOWER MY FORCE FIELD, BUT WHY SHOULD I?

SO I'D EAT NEATER AND BE ABLE TO PICK UP BEADS AND PASS AS HUMAN...?



"I'VE KNOWN SOME HUMANS..."

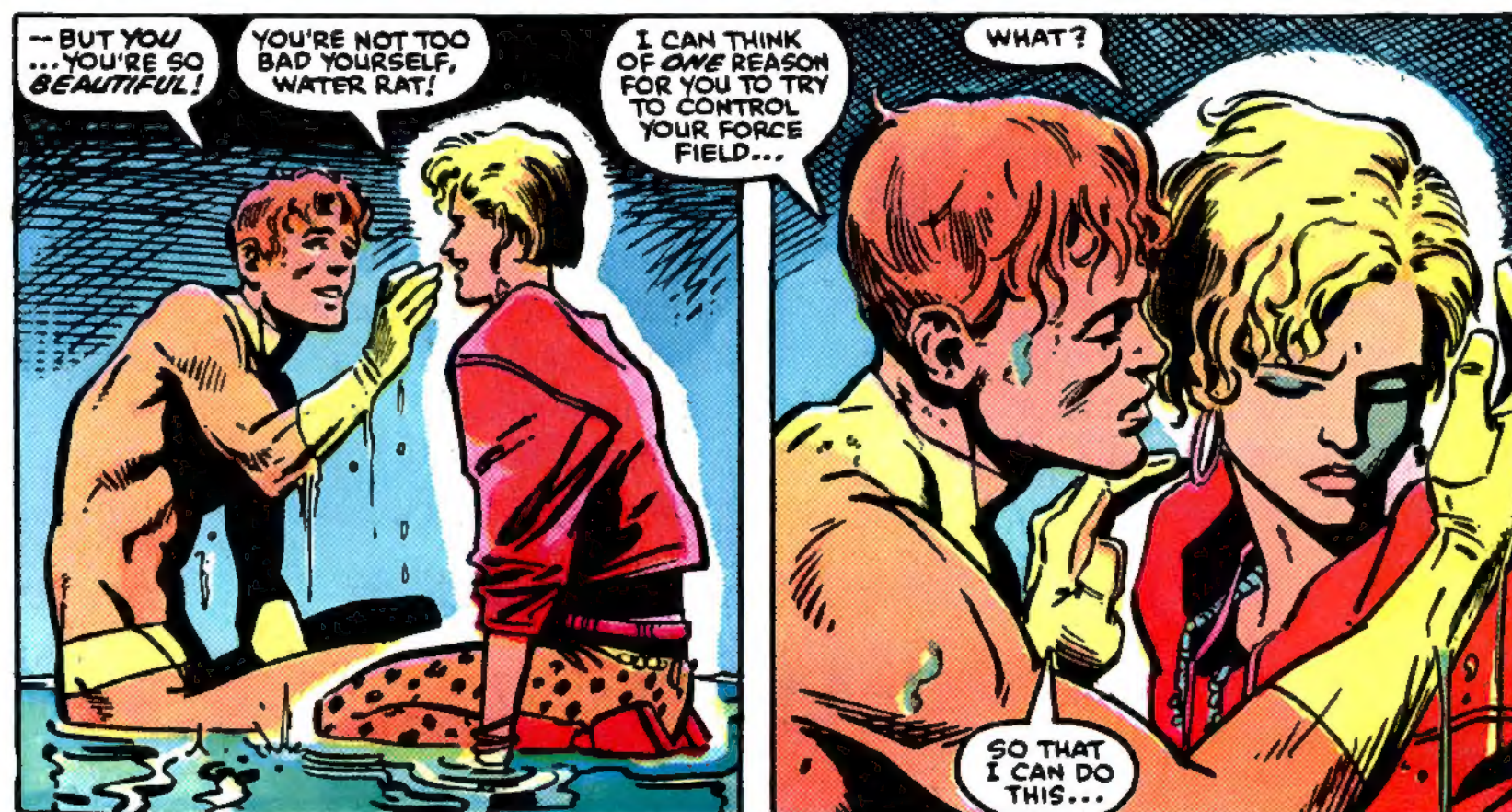
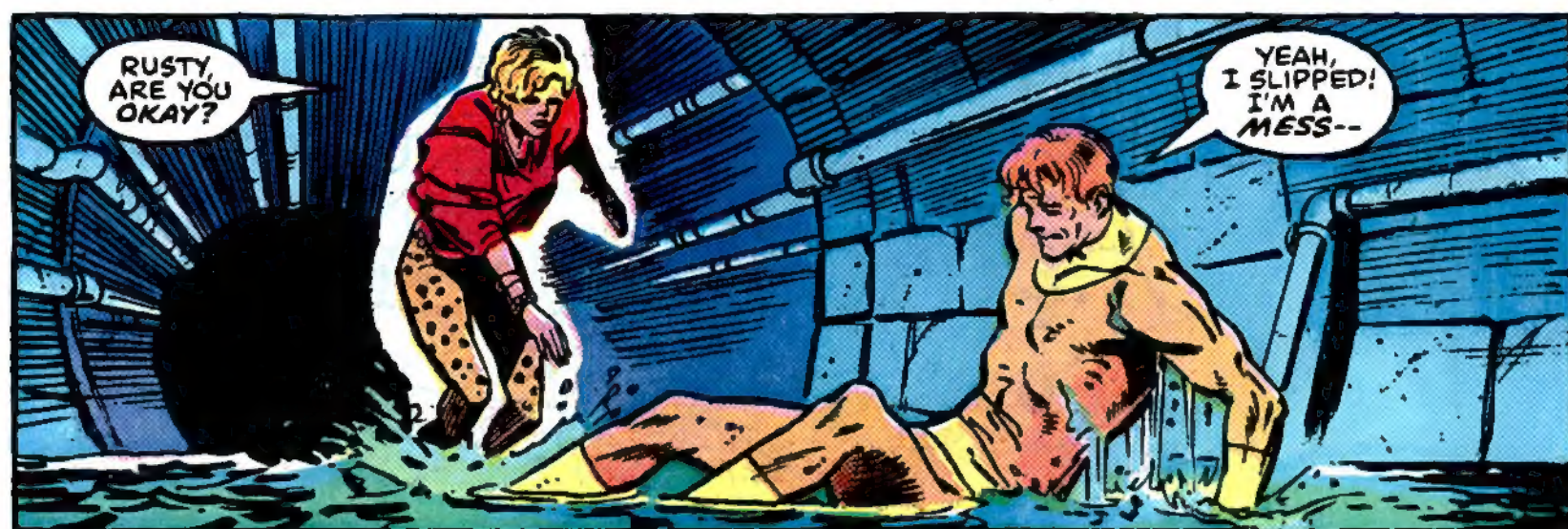
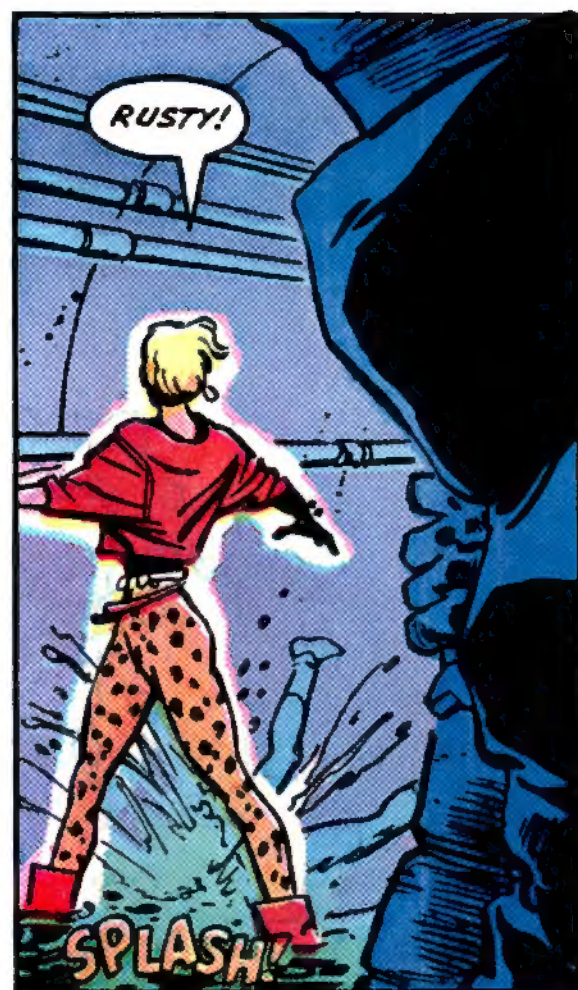
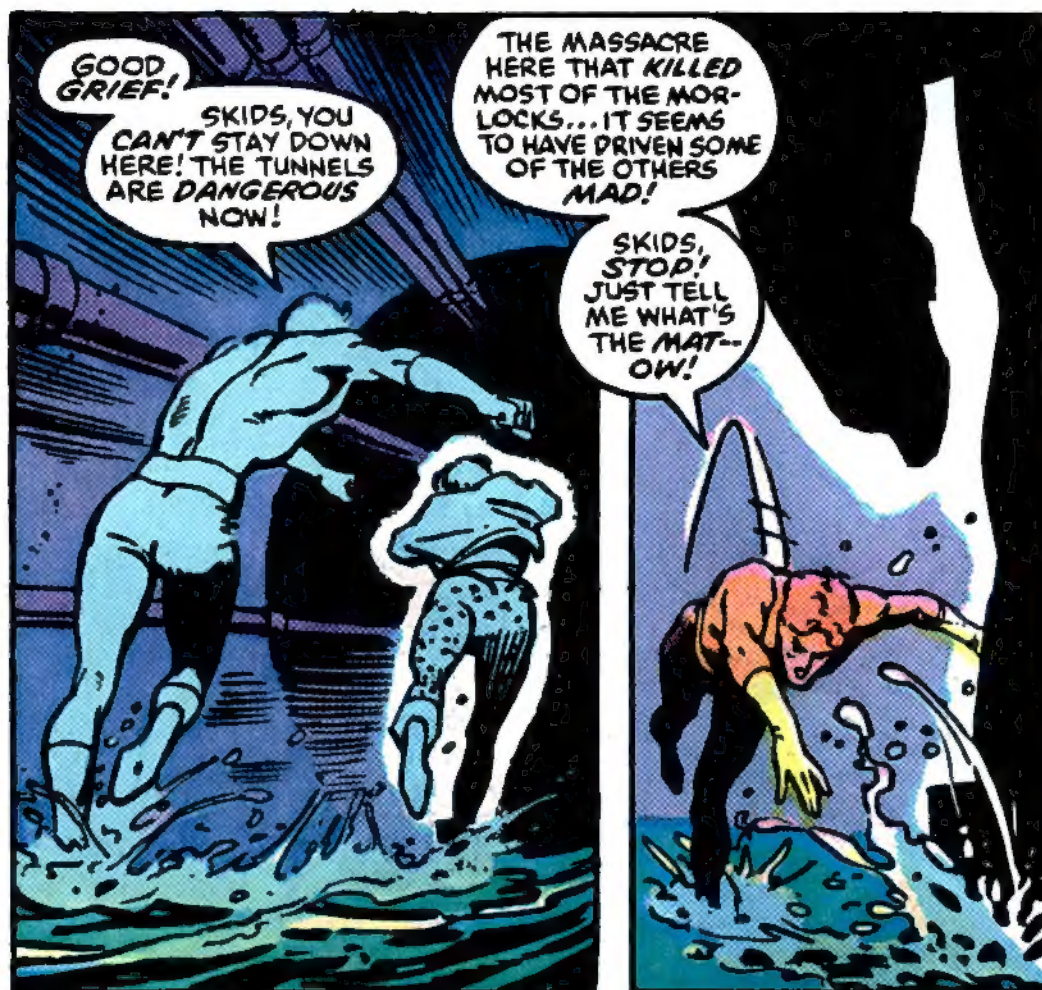
BILL! NO!

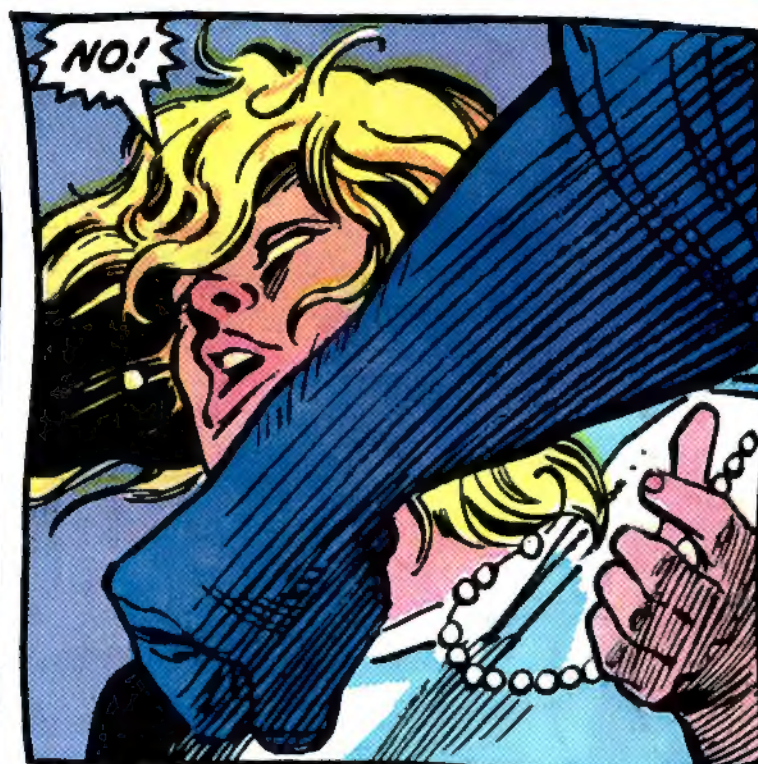
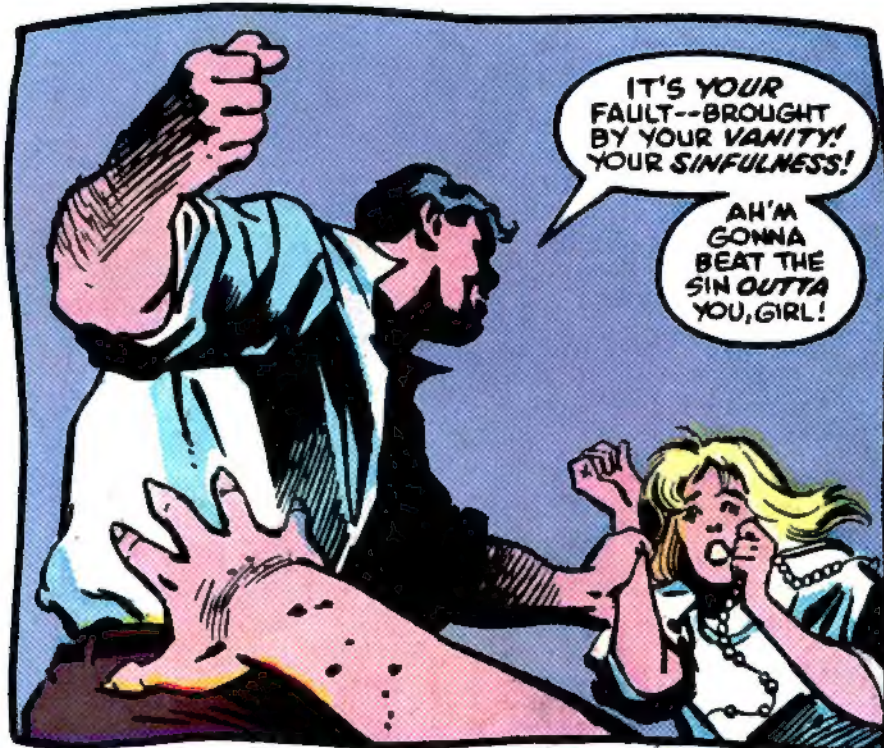
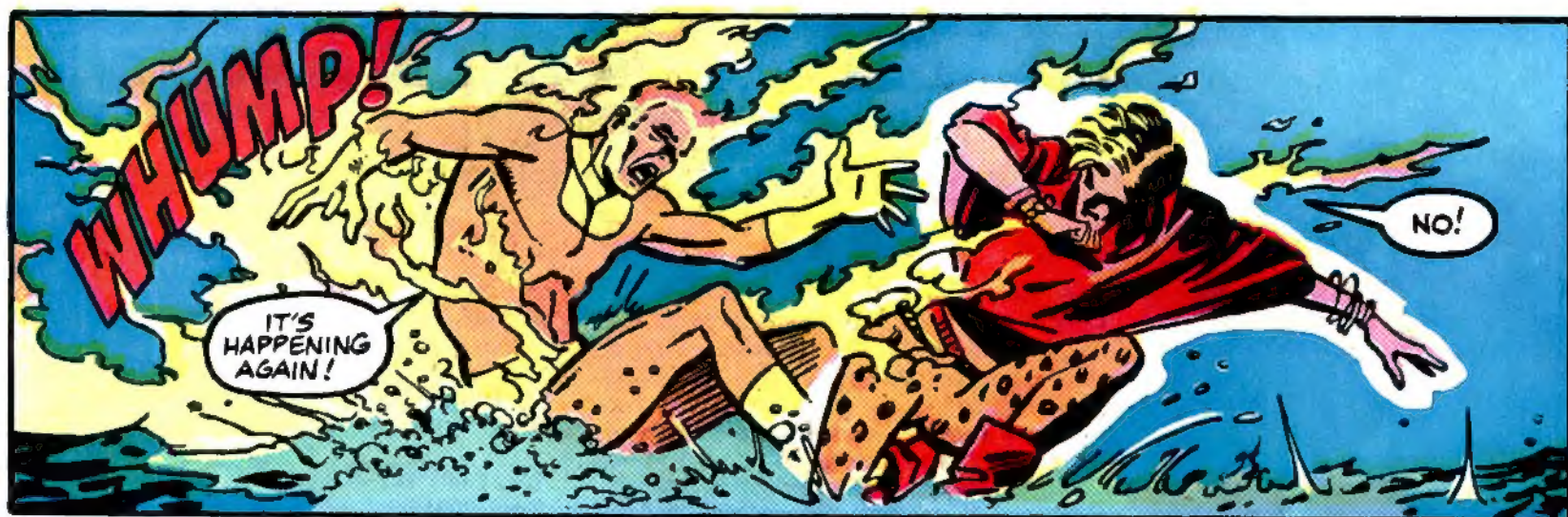


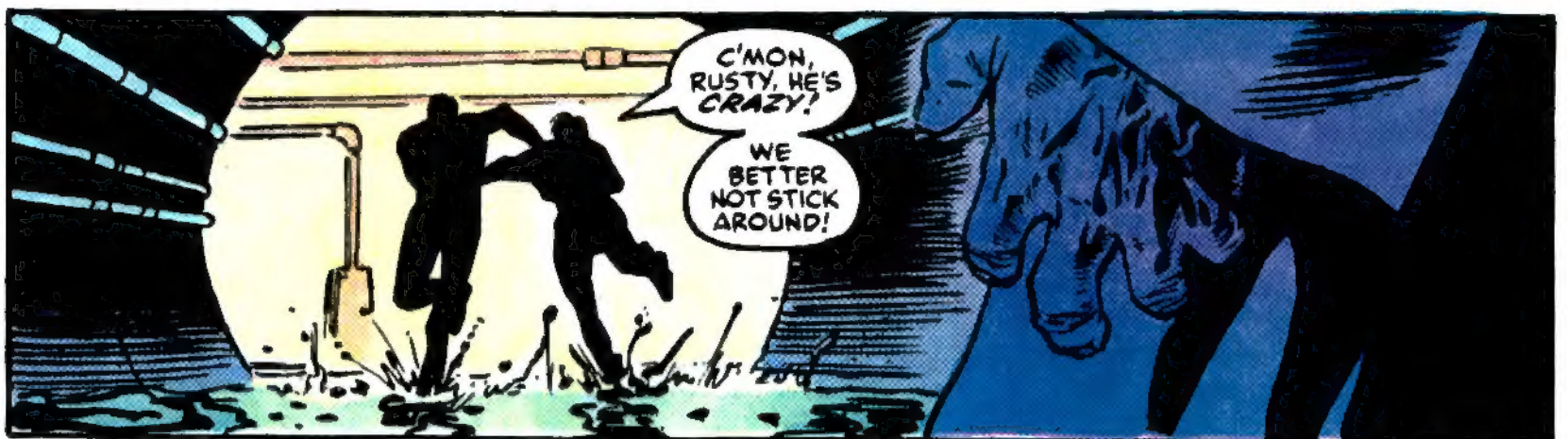
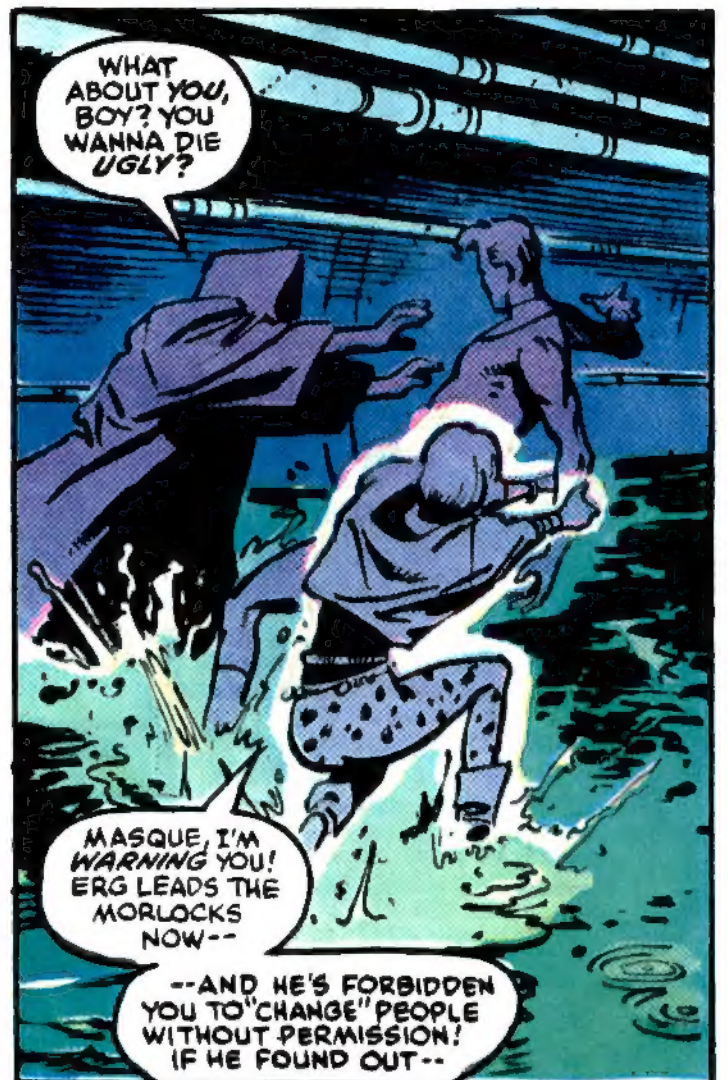
MOM!

"...WHO'D WANT TO BE LIKE THEM?"









LATER, IN THE REC ROOM OF THE X-FACTOR COMPLEX, X-FACTOR'S YOUNG "TRAINEES" GATHER AFTER CLASSES...

HEY, LOOK! HERE'S ANOTHER ARTICLE ABOUT THE ANGEL! LISTEN...

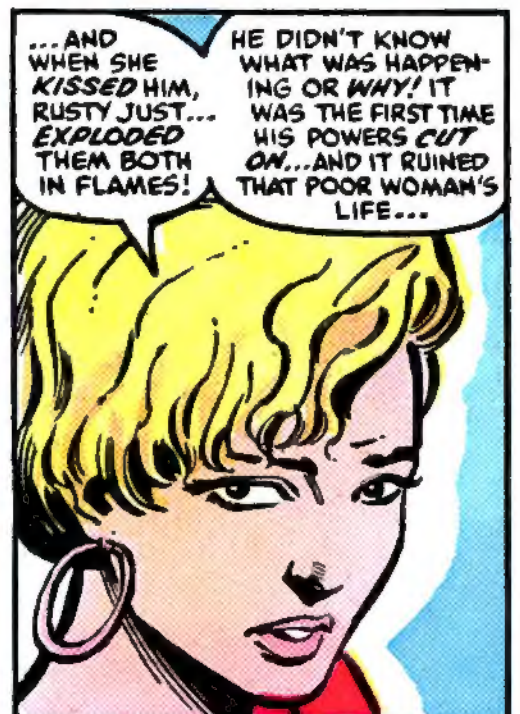
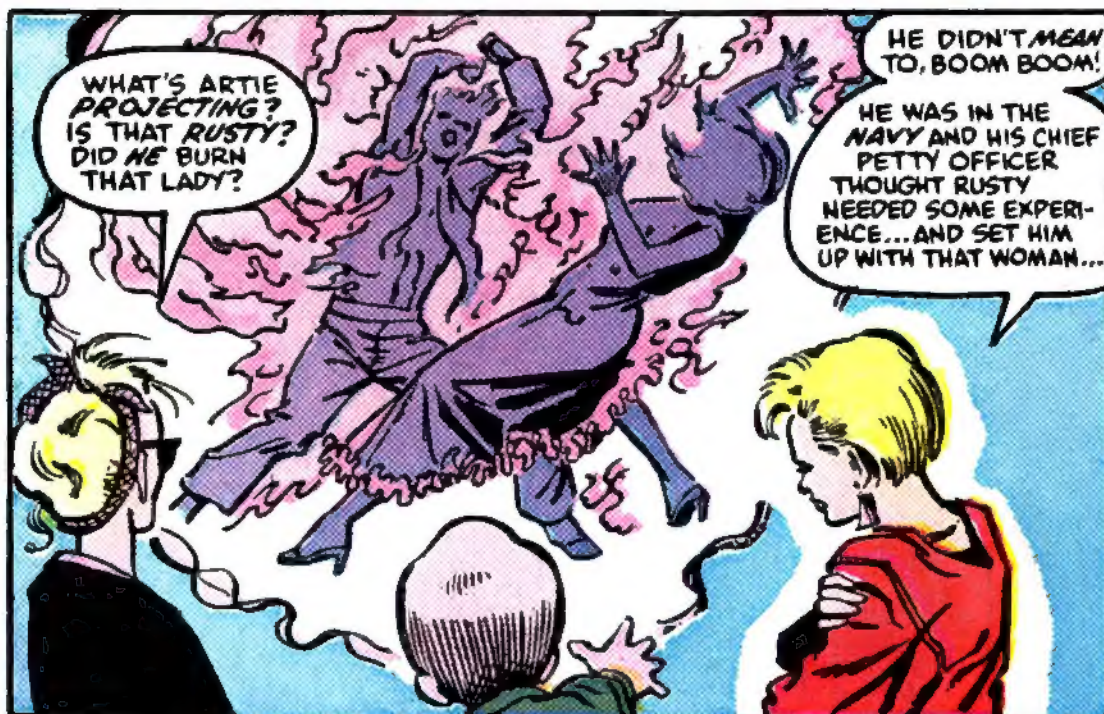
"WARREN WORTHINGTON, HEIR TO AN IMMENSE FORTUNE, WAS DIFFERENT FROM MOST AMERICAN KIDS. HE WAS A MUTANT...

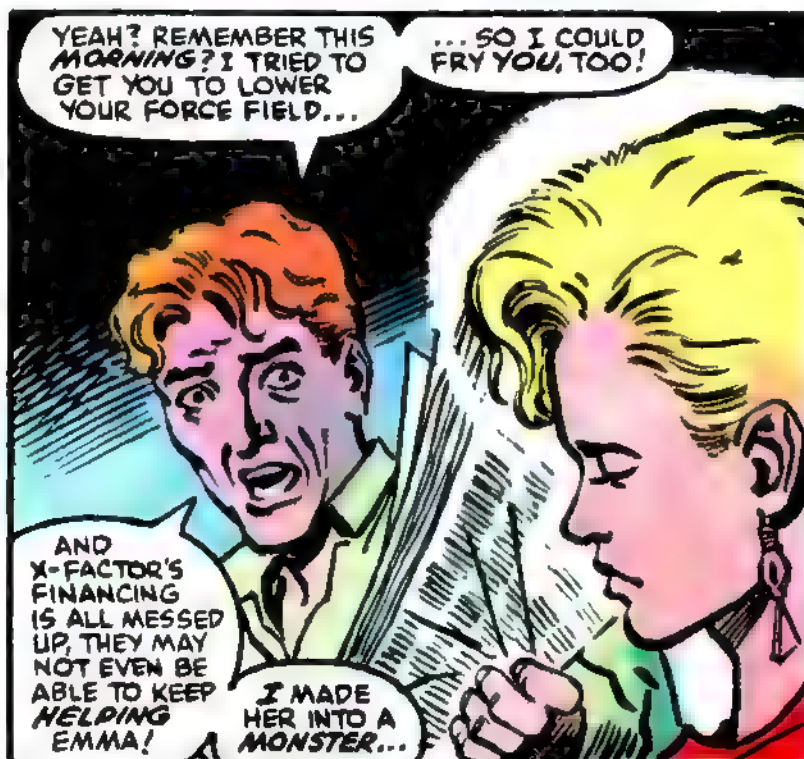
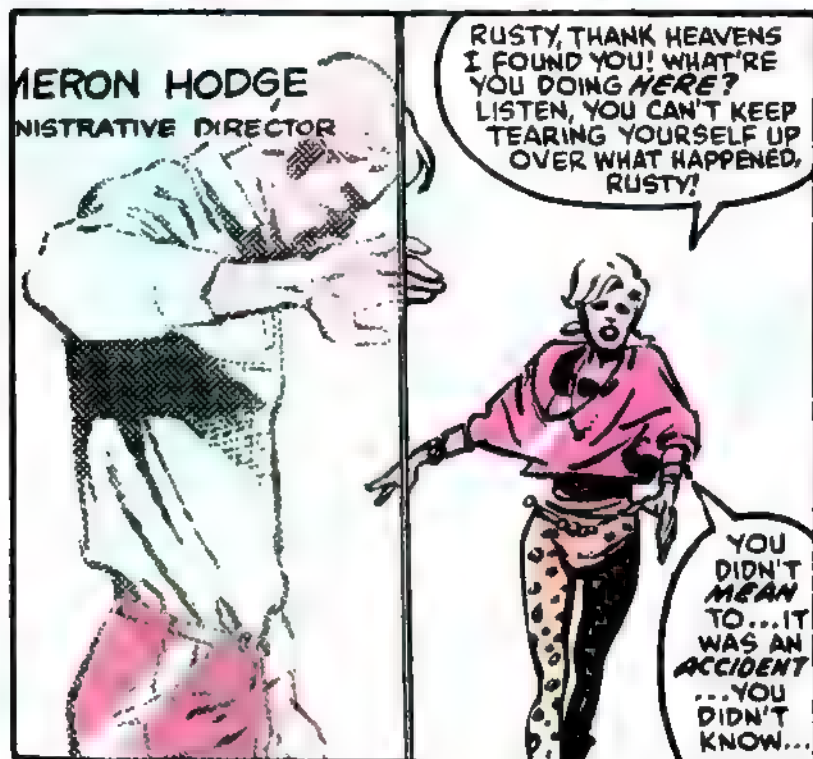
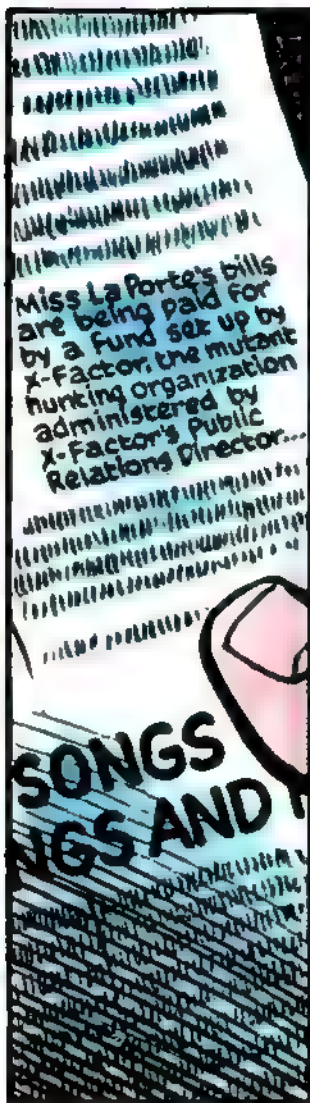
...WHILE OTHERS IN HIS EXCLUSIVE PREP SCHOOL WERE WONDERING HOW TO CONVINCE DADDY THAT THEY NEEDED A JAGUAR...

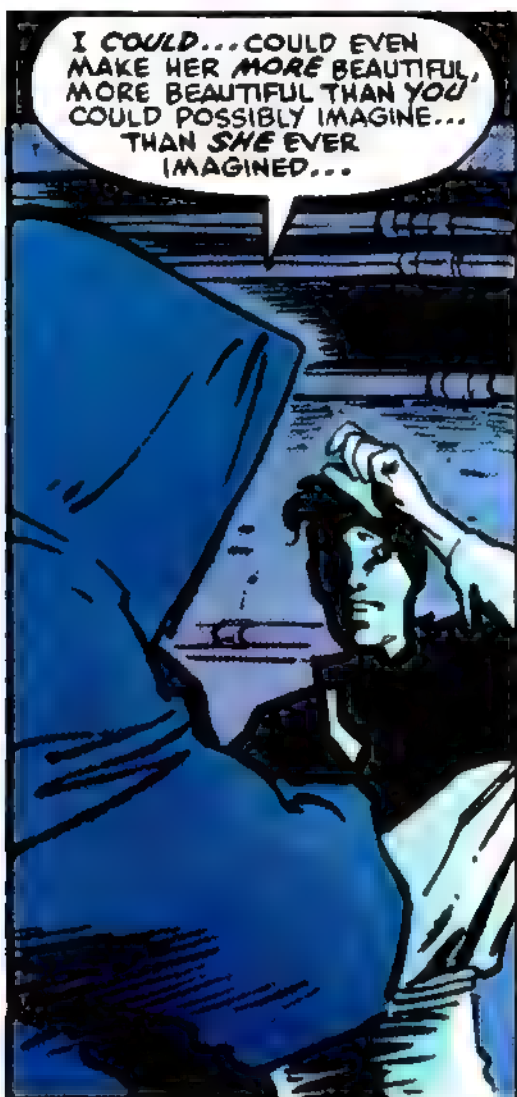
"...WORTHINGTON WAS CREATING HIS OWN SPECIAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION! HE WAS GROWING WINGS!

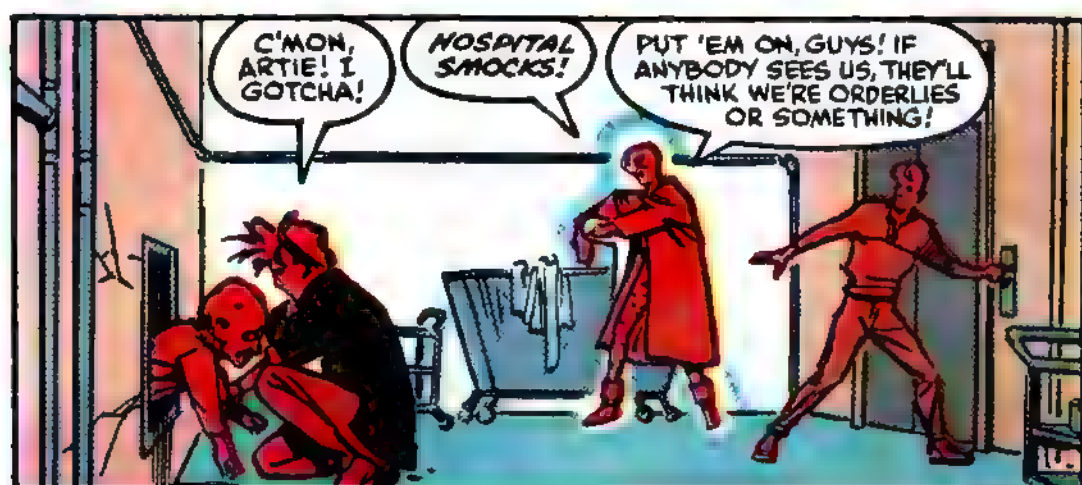
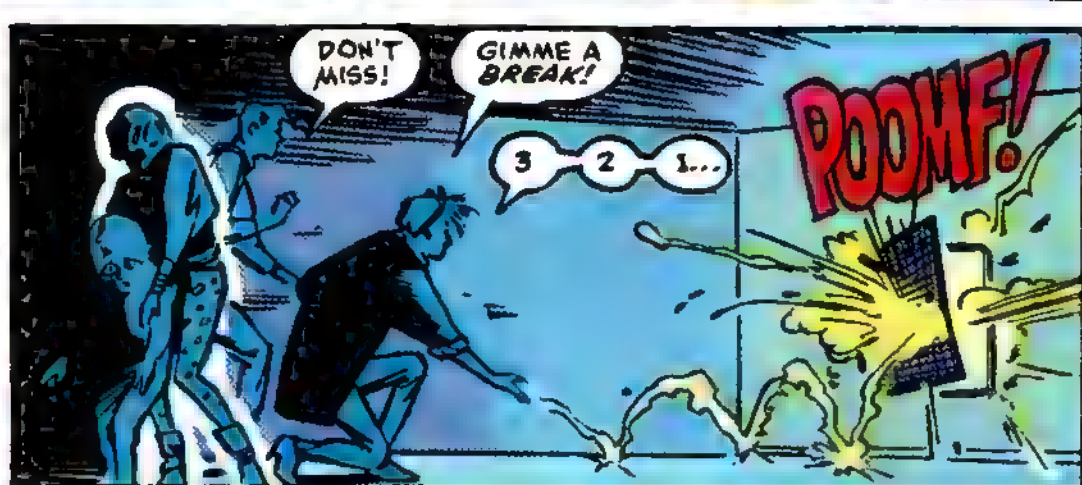
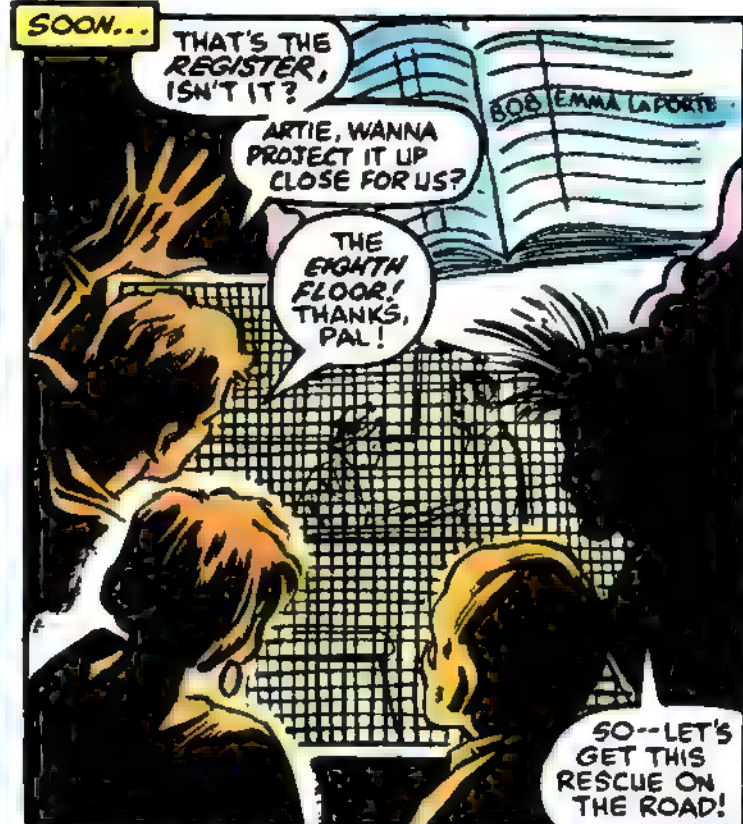
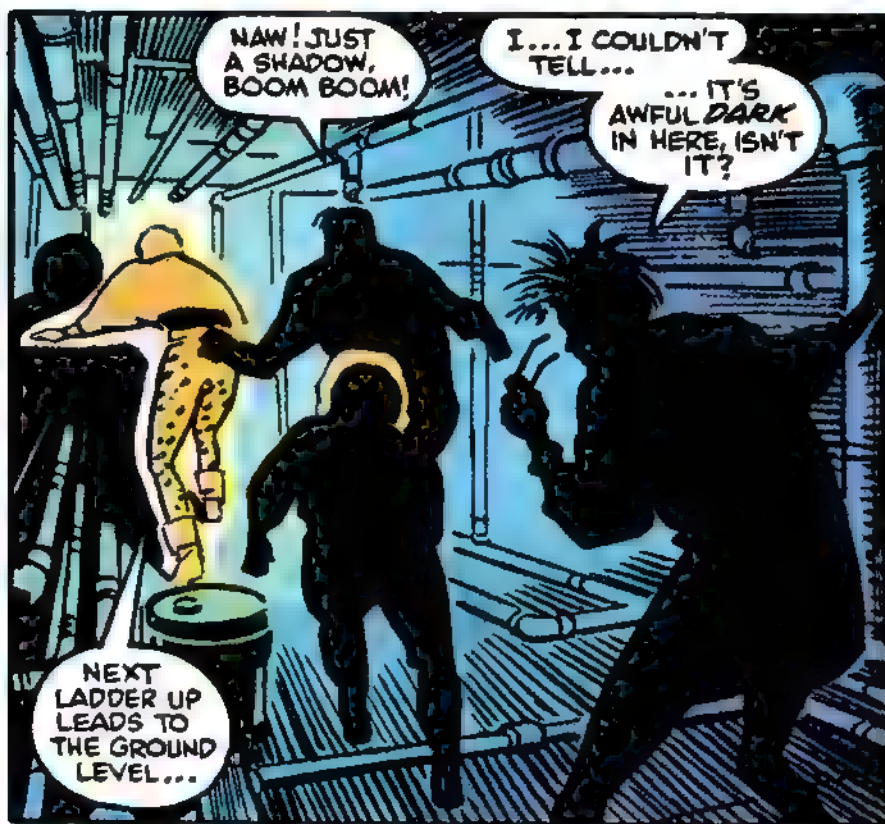
"ALMOST TEN YEARS LATER, HE LOST THEM. AND THEN HE LOST HIS LIFE..."

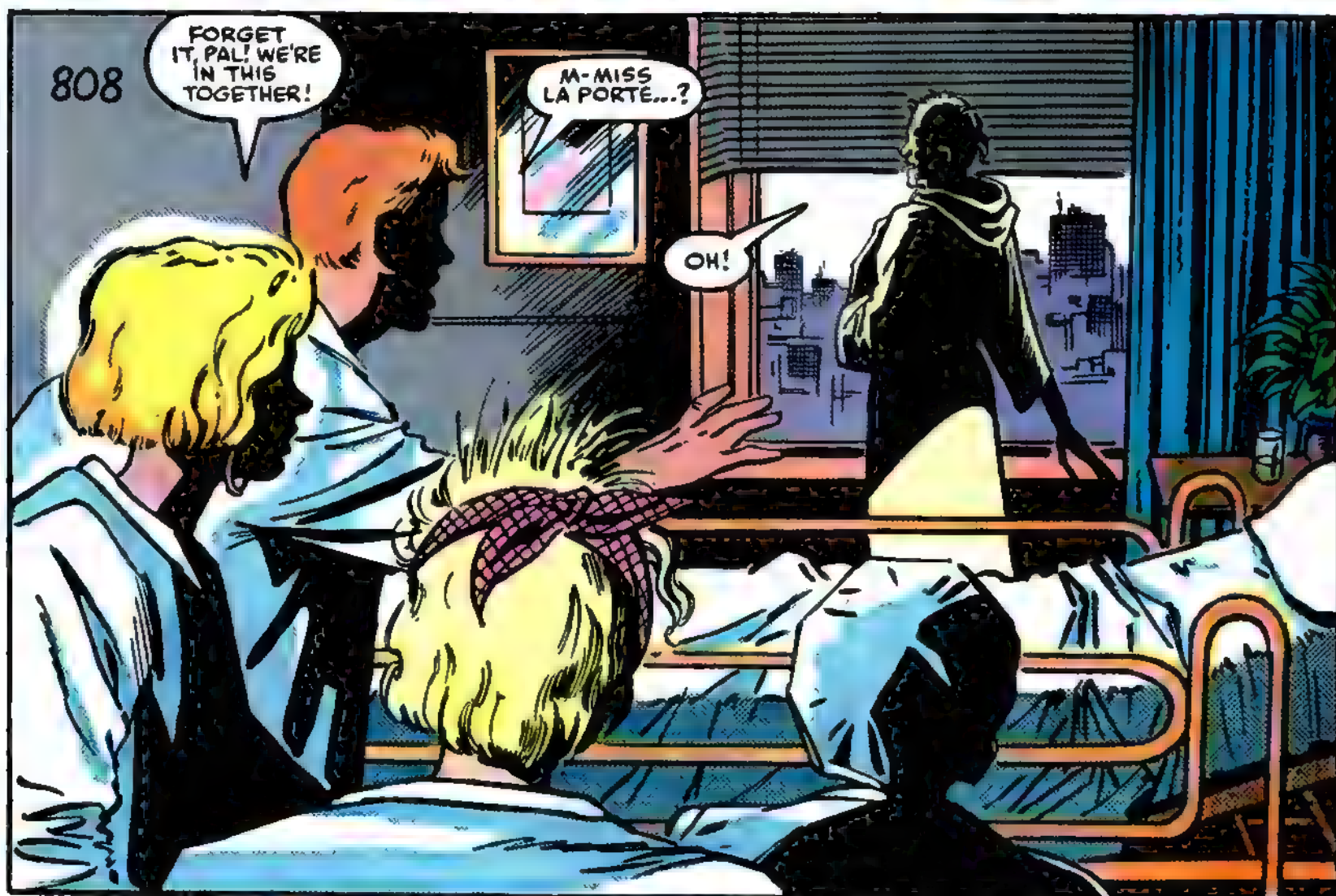
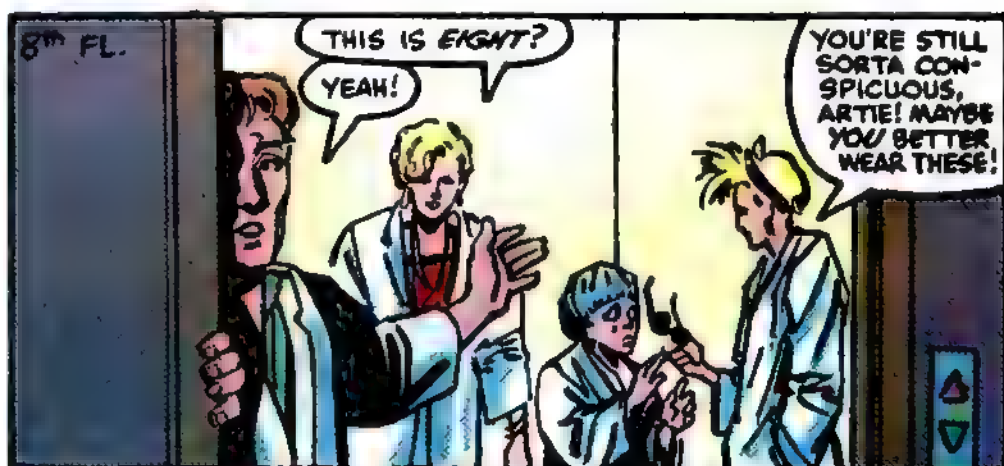
HEY, ARTIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?

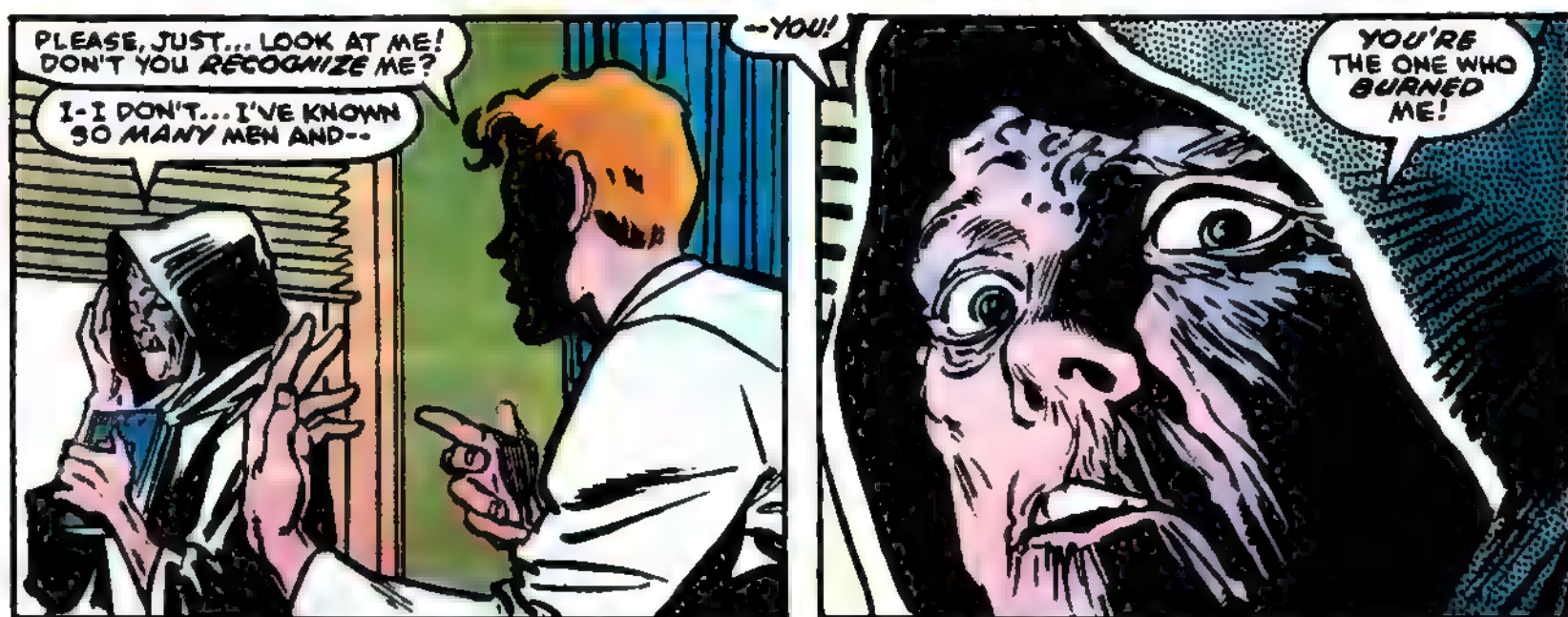
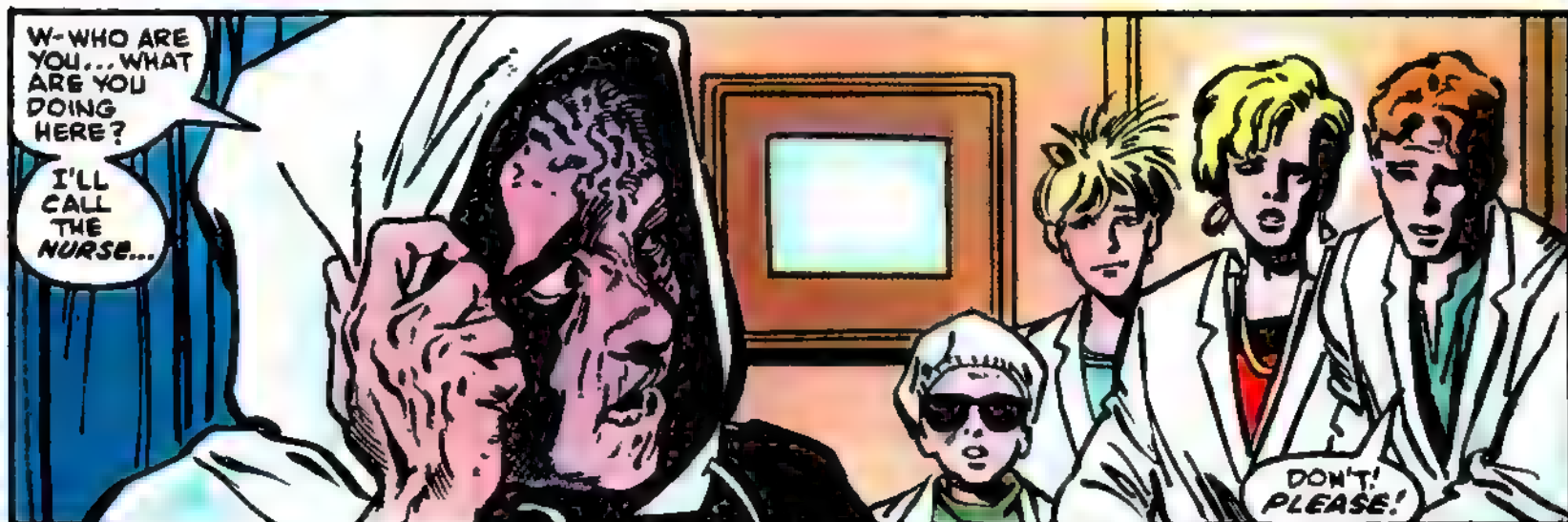




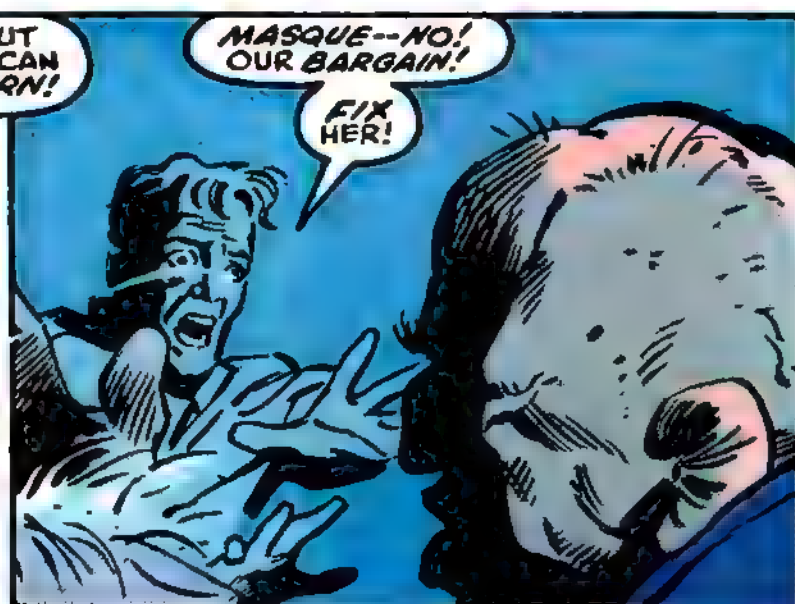
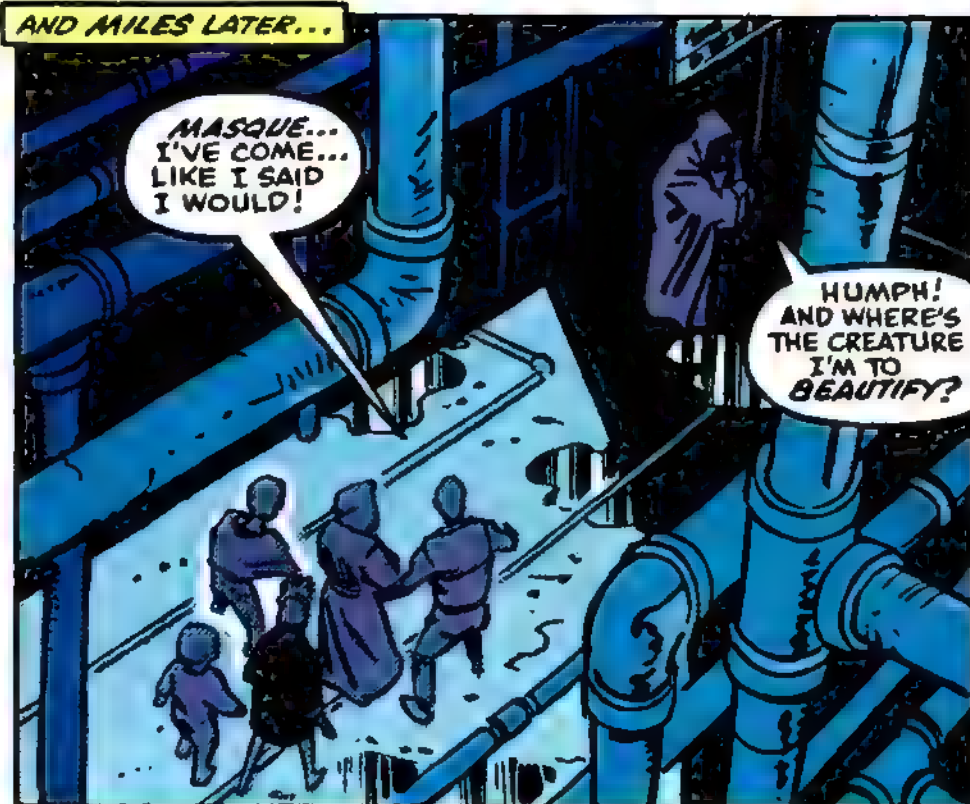
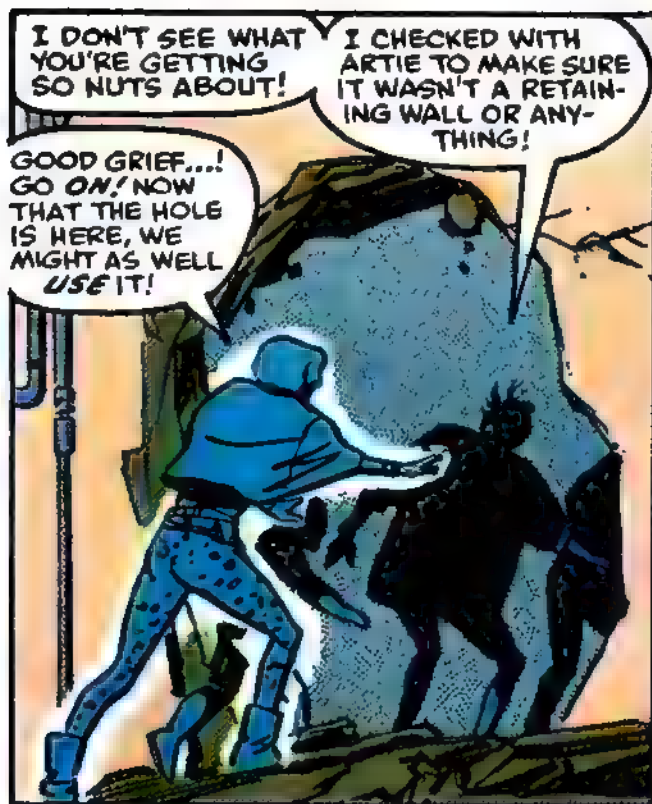


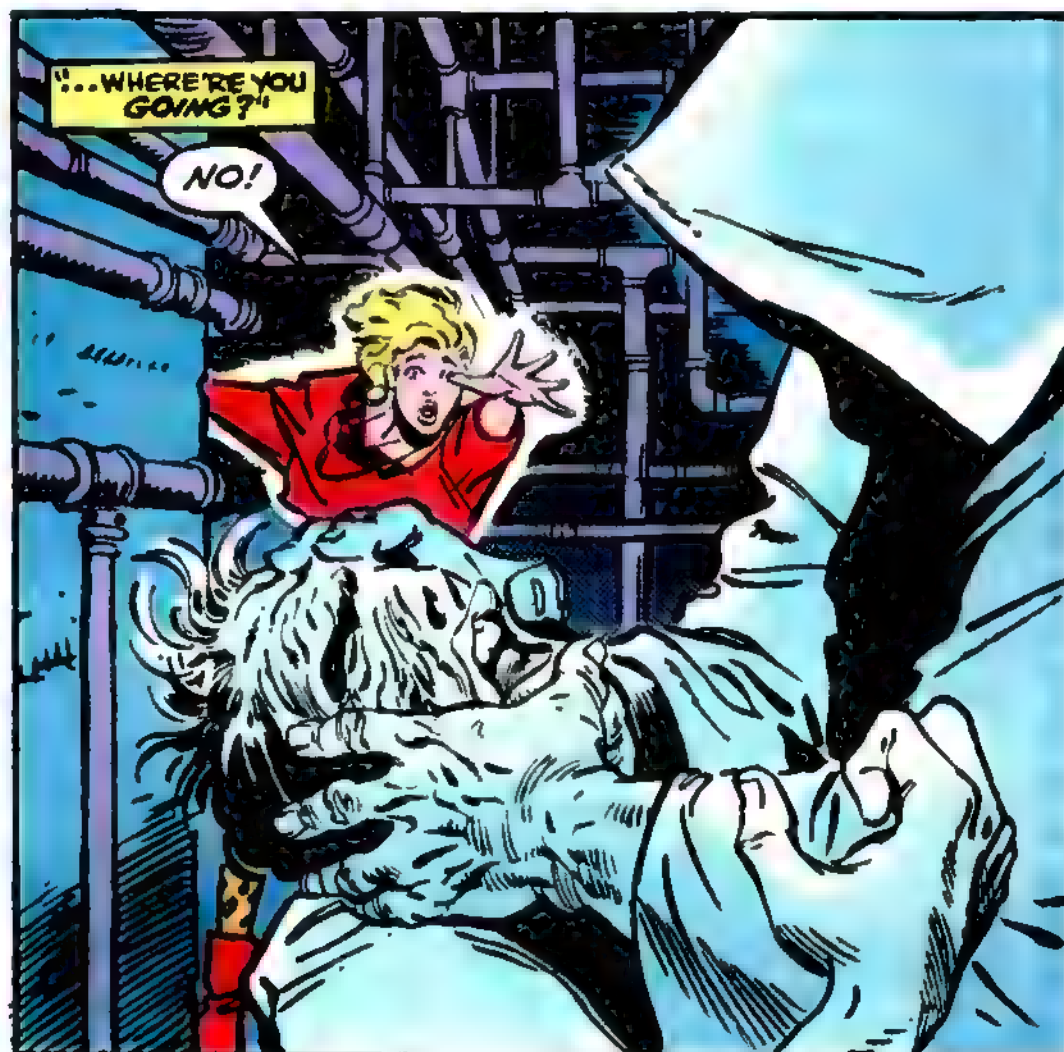
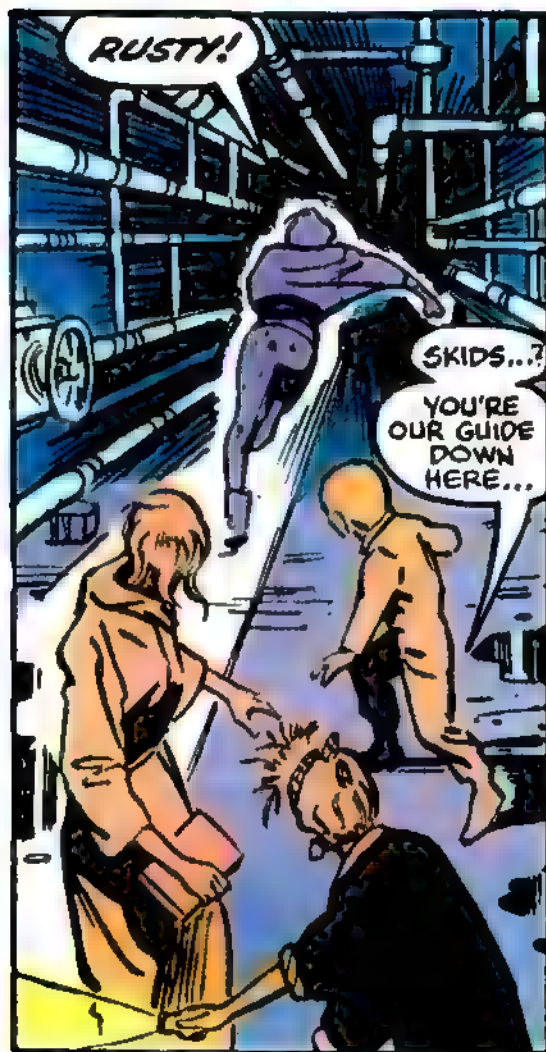
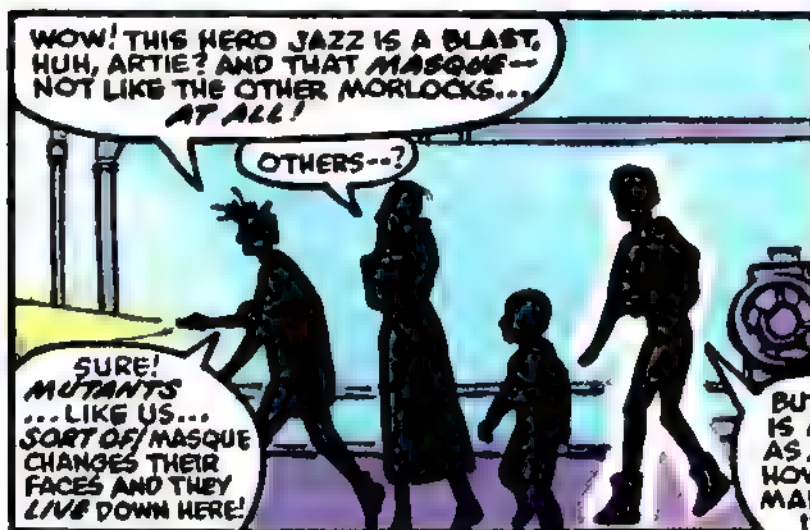
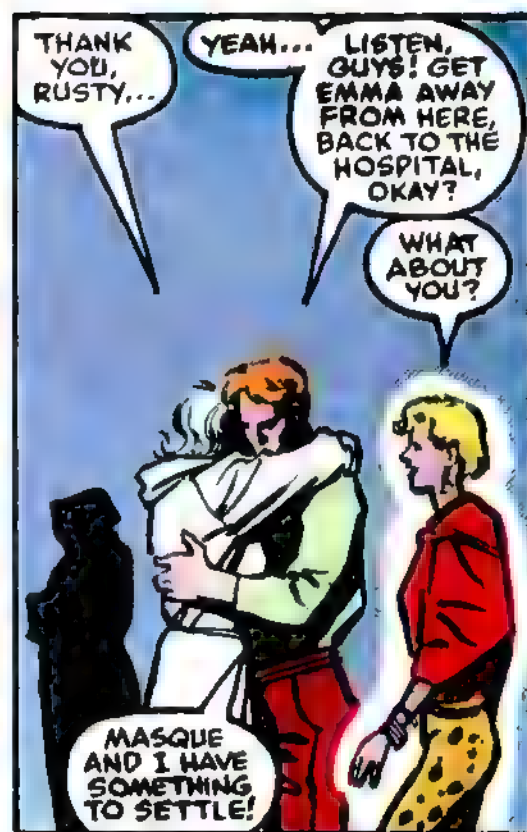


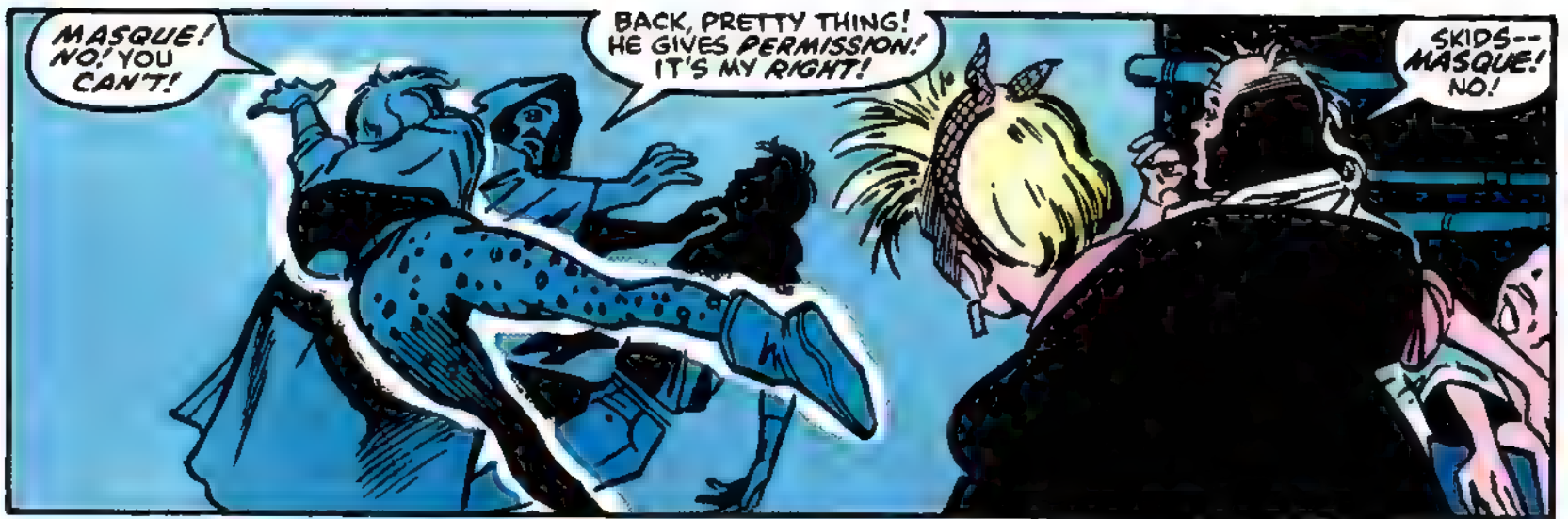












MASQUE!
NO! YOU
CAN'T!

BACK, PRETTY THING!
HE GIVES PERMISSION!
IT'S MY RIGHT!

SKIDS--
MASQUE!
NO!



IF *THAT'S* THE PRICE
OF MY CURE,
MASQUE,
I'M NOT
INTERESTED!

THE LORD WORKS IN
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
AND HE SURE DID
THIS TIME! PUT ME
BACK THE WAY
I WAS!

YOU REFUSE
BEAUTY...MY
BEAUTY!



BE UGLY
THEN!

UGLIER
EVEN THAN
ME!



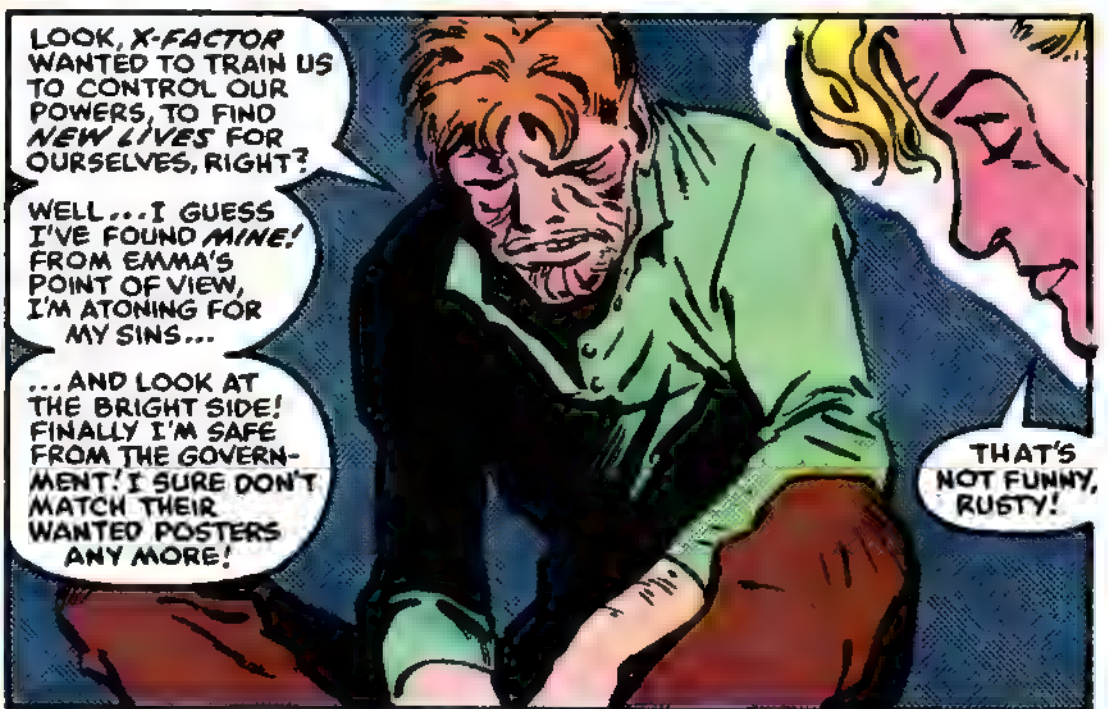
MASQUE, THE LORD HAS
GIVEN YOU A *SPECIAL*
POWER! TELL ME, DO YOU
KNOW THE LORD?



ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE
HAD YOUR FUN,
MASQUE! NOW,
CHANGE THEM
BACK!

NO! A
DEAL'S
A DEAL!

MASQUE'S
RIGHT,
SKIDS. WE
DID MAKE
A DEAL!
MASQUE
DID HIS
PART AND...

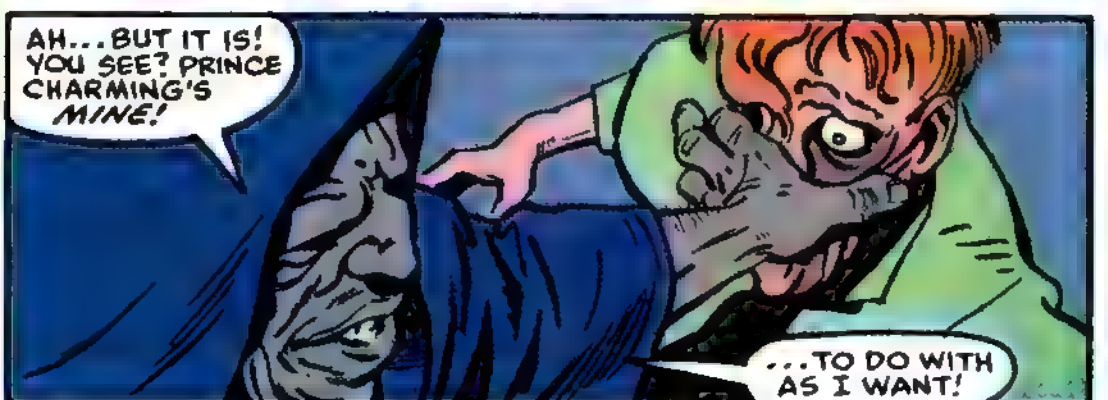


LOOK, X-FACTOR
WANTED TO TRAIN US
TO CONTROL OUR
POWERS, TO FIND
NEW LIVES FOR
OURSELVES, RIGHT?

WELL...I GUESS
I'VE FOUND *MINE*!
FROM EMMA'S
POINT OF VIEW,
I'M ATONING FOR
MY SINS...

...AND LOOK AT
THE BRIGHT SIDE!
FINALLY I'M SAFE
FROM THE GOVERN-
MENT! I SURE DON'T
MATCH THEIR
WANTED POSTERS
ANY MORE!

THAT'S
NOT FUNNY,
RUSTY!



AH...BUT IT IS!
YOU SEE? PRINCE
CHARMING'S
MINE!

...TO DO WITH
AS I WANT!



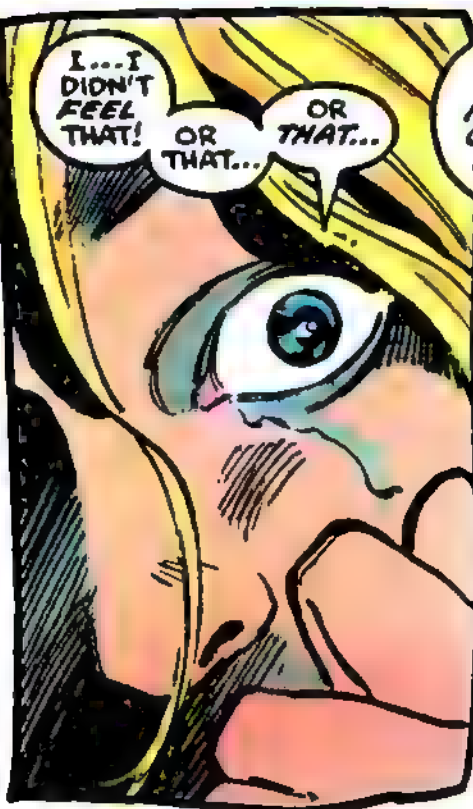
PUT HIM BACK! HE CAN'T BREATHE! HE'S DYING!



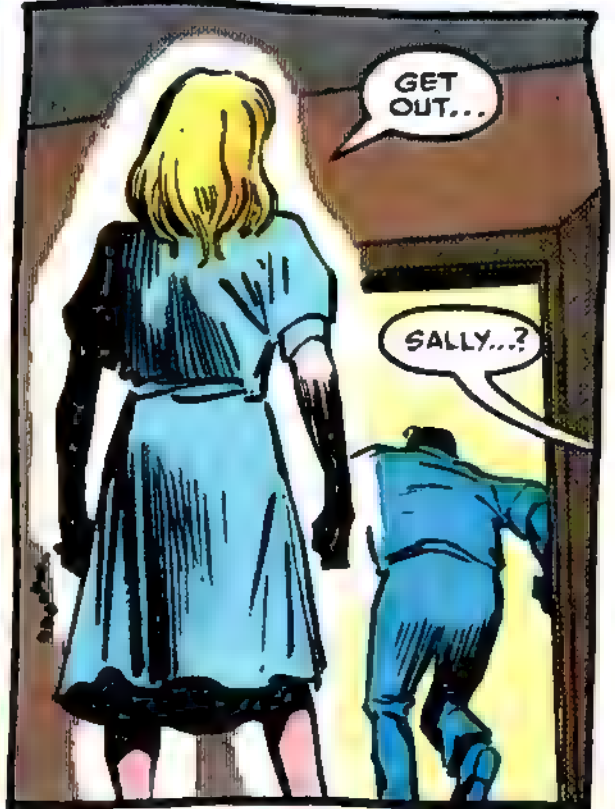
DADDY! NO! MAMA'S HURT! BAD! SHE--



WHAT THE DEVIL--?

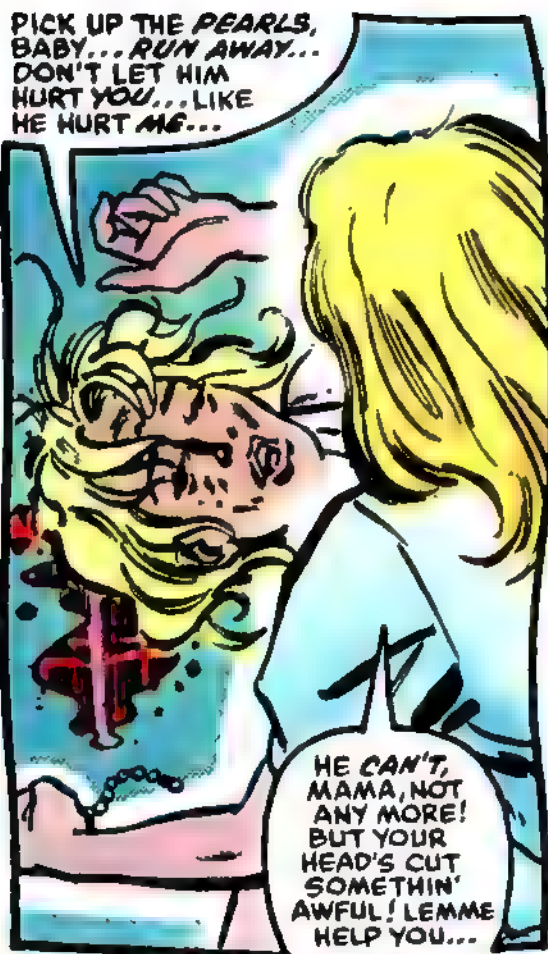


AN' I WON'T LET YOU HURT MAMA... NOT NOW... NOT EVER! GO ON! GET OUTTA HERE...



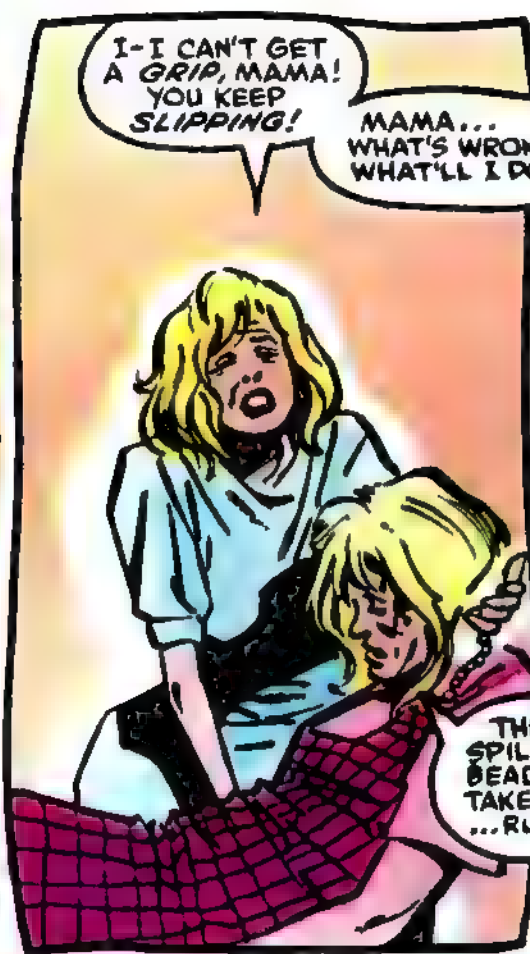
SALLY...?

PICK UP THE PEARLS,
BABY... RUN AWAY...
DON'T LET HIM
HURT YOU... LIKE
HE HURT ME...



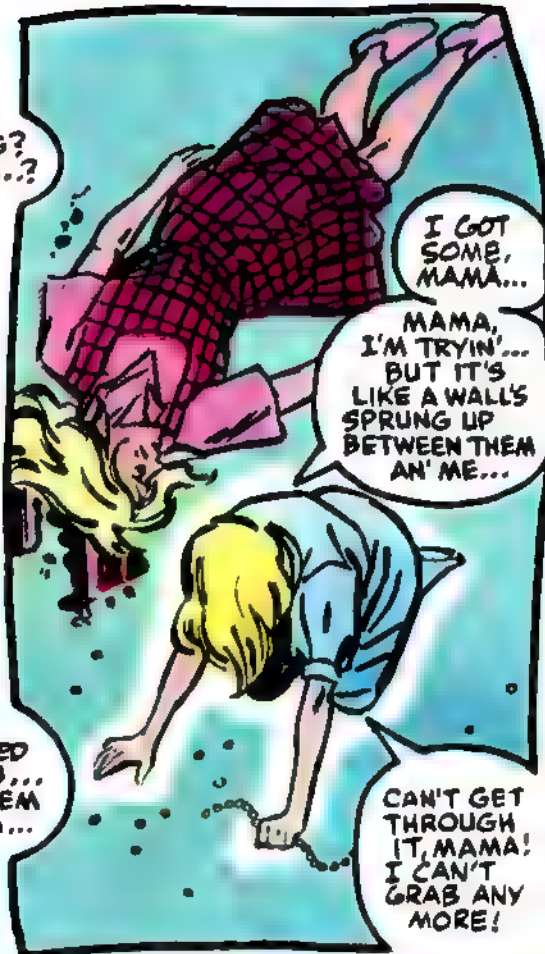
I-I CAN'T GET
A GRIP, MAMA!
YOU KEEP
SLIPPING!

MAMA...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'LL I DO...?



I GOT
SOME,
MAMA...

MAMA,
I'M TRYIN'...
BUT IT'S
LIKE A WALL'S
SPRUNG UP
BETWEEN THEM
AN' ME...



... CAN'T!
NO!



"...IT DOESN'T
CONTROL YOU!"



"YOU'VE GOT
TO LEARN..."

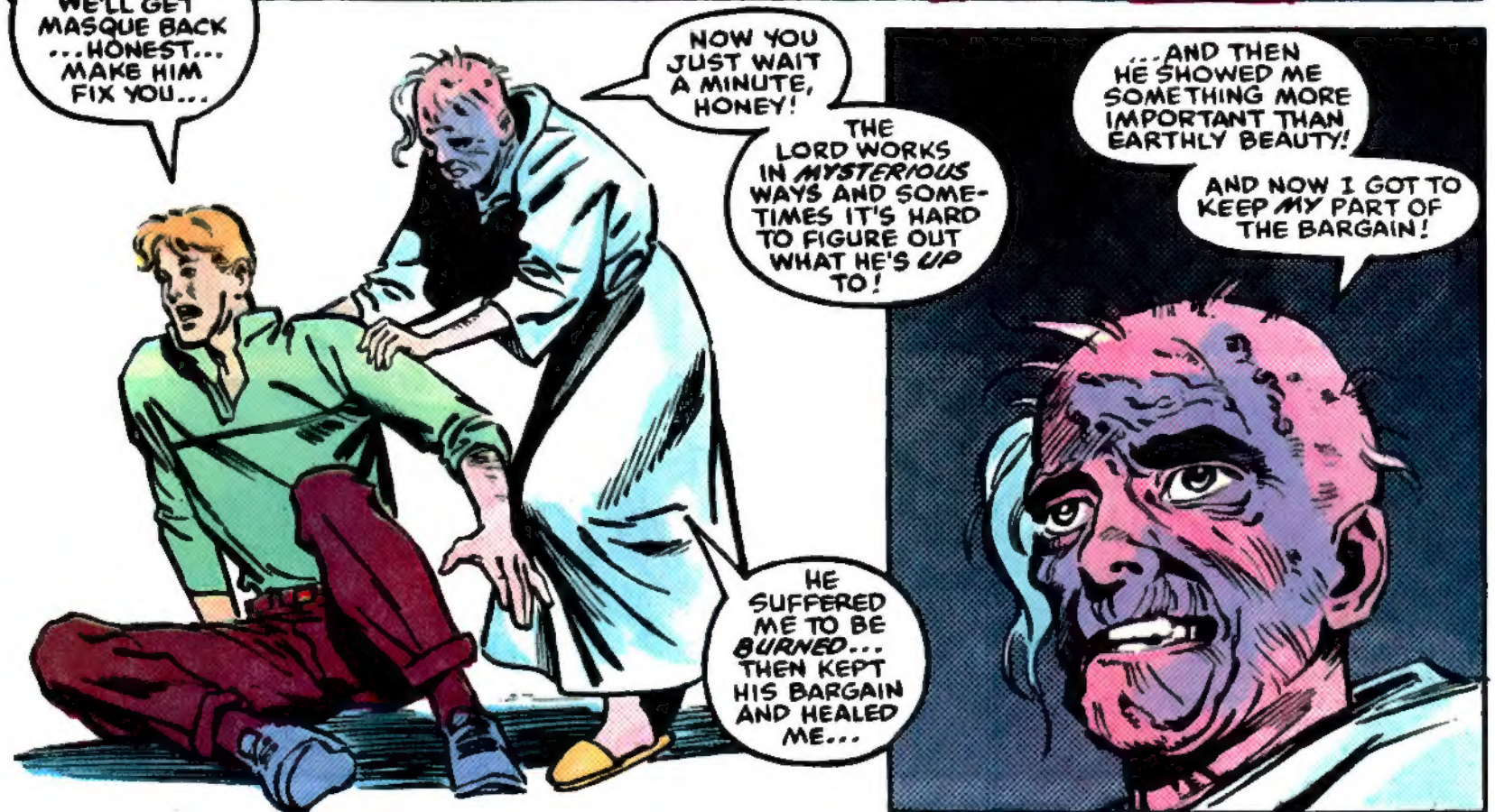
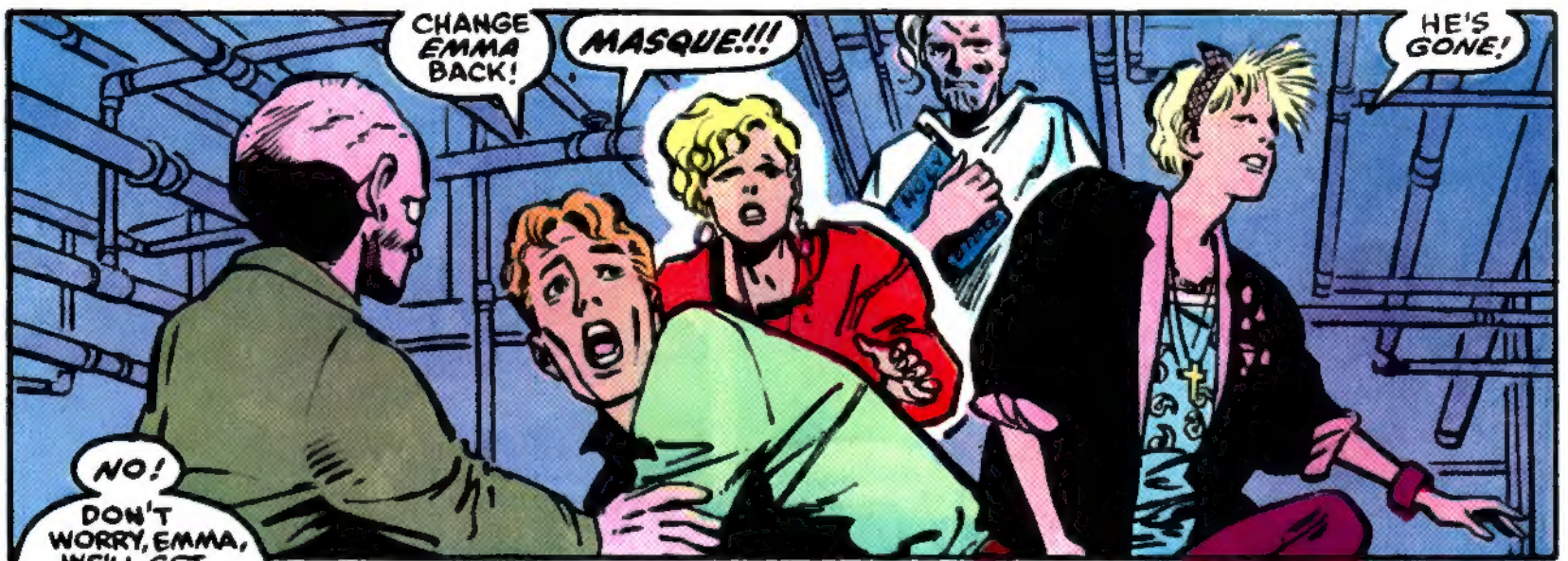


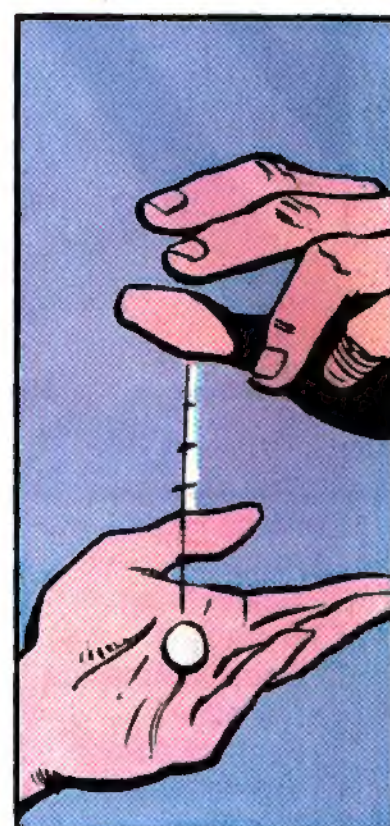
TO LEARN...

HARRGH!









MINUTEMEN



STREET BOSS